

Lessons from Daniel



by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist

The people had turned from God . . . again. There would be consequences.

A new ruler had come to power. He would destroy

everything they held dear. Every aspect of their lives would be changed, and not for the good.

Sweeping into the country, Nebuchadnezzar besieged the capital and plundered the temple, taking captive the smartest, most beautiful and those in perfect physical shape.

It would be a long journey for the hostages. According to some sources, it was a 500-mile trek. They had no idea what lay ahead. They did not know how long they would live in captivity or if they would ever see their families again.

Ripped from their homeland and thrust into the pagan city of Babylon, these brightest and best faced temptation immediately. No one from home

would be watching if they caved to worldly desires.

Of those taken, a handful were determined to follow their upbringing. They resolved (decided in advance) that they would not defile themselves. While they learned the culture, language, and literature of their new home, they were still committed to serving the One True God.

Difficult times were ahead. They would face obstacles and persecution. The heat would be turned up on their faith. For Daniel, his habit of praying would draw unsolicited attention leading straight to the lion's den. There was coming a day when three of them—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—would be thrown into a raging fire.

In the book of Daniel, we have numerous examples of

how to face adversity in our present uncertain times:

- Daniel used tact when speaking to Ashpenaz, the king's official. Though he did not agree with what they had been asked to do, he used his words wisely. God caused him to have favor with the official.

- Daniel prayed often. In the morning, in the evening, at noon (Psalm 55:17), in crisis, for direction. It's a good habit to follow.

- Pressed to bow to another god, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, absolutely and fearlessly refused, clinging to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Trusting Him fully, God was with them and delivered them all.

- Daniel and his friends were determined to do what was right no matter what pressure was applied, regardless of

the personal cost. If we, too, resolve to obey God, the decision will already be made when trouble or temptation comes. "We will get into trouble if we have not previously decided where to draw the line," NIV Study Bible.

These Hebrew boys no doubt remembered the stories of what God had done in the past for their people in Egypt, at the Red Sea, at Jericho. They had no clue that what He was going to do in THEIR lives would still be encouraging believers 2500 years later!

Read in the book of Daniel and let your heart be stirred and encouraged!

Father, help us to resolve to stand firm in uncertain circumstances. Help us to remember the stories of old and remember that You are alive and well today, working for our good.

Seeds of Hope



There once was a dog named "Nipper," a terrier who was very devoted to his master, Mark Barraud. The two were best friends and were rarely seen apart from each other. When Mark died, his brother Francis 'adopted' him and after a lengthy period of mourning, "Nipper" became very attached to Francis, an artist. Eventually they too developed a very close relationship.

Mark and Francis lived in the latter 1800s and at that time phonographs with wax cylinders were used for recording voices and music. Some of Francis' cylinders contained recordings of his voice and each time he played one of his recordings "Nipper" would place his head near the phonograph and look intently

into it as though he was looking for his new master to appear. "Nipper's" pose inspired the artist and he painted a picture of it that became one of the most famous and recognizable brands in all the world, called "His Master's Voice."

In Psalm 99:7 we read that "He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud." What an unusual means of communication. Imagine walking through a field and suddenly hearing a cloud call you by name and give you a special message. Seems improbable but that's what God did to Moses and Aaron. And He can do that today.

Our God is constantly speaking to us in different ways at different times and from different places. He will do everything He can to get our attention and share His message with us. If we want to hear our Master's voice, we must be open, attentive and waiting to hear Him speak.
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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Ezekiel 34:12

As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

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D S I H P E E H S N

Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Doing the Will of the Lord?

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The definition of "will" is: "to exercise one's will," or "to be willing." But today we will be dealing with the exercising of the will of Jesus, not man's will. One point is, "Even though God in Creation gave man the choice to exercise his will, man's will is not, nor will ever be used to determine his final destiny." My point is, "It is only the will of Jesus and obedience to it, that man will ever receive the benefits of its teachings."

In **Matthew 7:21**, Jesus says, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Verse 24 adds, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." Also in **Matthew, in 12:46-50**, Jesus tells us that his family consists of those that do the will of his father which is in Heaven. Jesus declares in **John 7:16-17**, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. ¹⁷If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." Then, in **John 5:30**, Jesus says, "I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

So, the point is, God has a will, and this will is made manifest by the life and teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice in **John 6:38-40**, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. ³⁹And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. ⁴⁰And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." Then in **1 John 2:17**, "he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

So, in **1 Timothy 2:3-4**, Paul wrote, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." Notice, in **1 Timothy 1:15**, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." So, all Christianity is under the will of God. **John 3:16-17** says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Notice, Christ does not say **would not** or **could not**, but **should not**, and the reason some will be lost is that even though every avenue of salvation is open unto them, they for whatever reason, will not choose the pathway to Heaven. Some will not make it because they want to change his will to say something else. Some will not make it because they procrastinate, obeying until it is too late to work within his will. Some will not make it simply because they just will not believe it. Then, there are many who say they believe in God but will not do what he says for them to do. Jesus says in **Luke 6:46**, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" The people asked after hearing later in **Acts 2:37**, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said unto them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:38-39

So, my closing point in this: "the same point of the will of God that was given on Pentecost is the same plan for man's salvation today." **If not, why not?**

Call for discussion, any time, 1-859-369-4165
Sincerely, Bob Casey

Bible Word Search Answer on Page 12

Stickeler's Puzzle



Bob bought a cake that will serve 10 people. The cake is 6 inches in diameter. Then, Mike bought a cake that is 18 inches in diameter and wonders how many people it will serve if Bob's cake serves 10.

How many people will Mike's cake serve?

- 1) 20 4) 80
- 2) 30 5) 90
- 3) 60

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 12

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Which book of the Bible (KJV) mentions the word "thanksgiving" the most times at eight? Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah
2. In 2 Timothy 3:1-2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? Adulterers, Sun worshippers, Renegades, Unthankful people

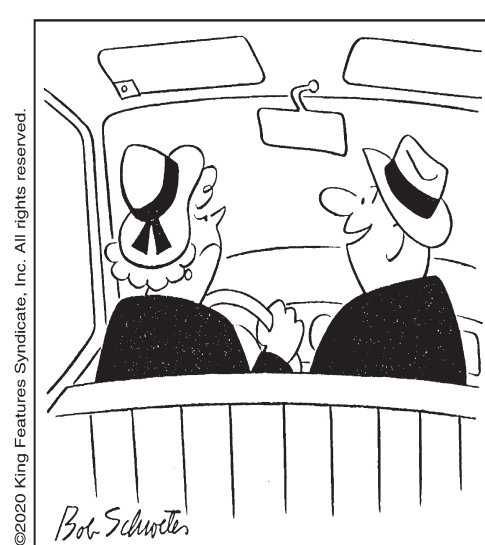
3. From Psalms 106:1, "O give thanks unto the Lord; for his ... endureth forever"? Love, Good, Mercy, Spirit

4. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the ... of God"? Power, Will, Gratitude, Travail

5. From Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ...? Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant

6. Where was Jonah when he prayed with the voice of thanksgiving? Fish's belly, Aboard ship, In the wilderness, Mountaintop

Answers on bottom of Page 12



"Well, if you're such a good driver, how come Joe's Auto Body Shop gives you a _____?"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Smart
STATUE

Empty
INARD

Close
BRANEY

Berate
CLODS

TODAY'S WORD
